

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source
3 to a user, said partial data comprising only a part of distribution data, together with attribute
4 data including the price of the distribution data, to a storage region provided ~~in each~~ at said
5 user-side;

6 partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a
7 decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution
8 means or a remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the
9 partial data, except for the attribute data, from a time of the ~~decision~~ indication at the earliest;
10 and

11 remaining distribution data distribution means for, upon receipt by the source of a
12 request from the user ~~side~~ for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data
13 corresponding to the partial data, distributing from the source the remaining distribution data
14 to the user who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

1 2. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source
3 to a user, said partial data comprising only a part of distribution data, together with attribute
4 data including the price of the distribution data, to a storage region provided ~~in each~~ at said
5 user-side;

6 partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a
7 decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution
8 means or a remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the
9 partial data, except for the attribute data, from a time of the ~~decision~~ indication at the earliest;

10 payment ability judgment means for said source, upon the receipt of a request from
11 the user ~~side~~ for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of
12 the data corresponding to the partial data, judging whether or not the user, who has requested

the distribution of the part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

requested data distribution means for, when the judgment by the result of the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributing the requested data from the source to the corresponding user-side;

accounting means for the source, when the distribution of the requested data by the requested data distribution means from the source to the user side has been confirmed, performing accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

requested data reproduction release means for rendering the remaining part of the data, which has been distributed from the source to the user by the requested data distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user side.

3. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source to a storage region provided in each at a user-side, said partial data including only a part of distribution data for which a time of the start of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival of the time of start of use, including at least one of the time of start of use and the price of the distribution data, before the arrival of the time of start of use;

partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a decision to purchase the partial data distributed from said source by the partial data preliminary distribution means or a remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the partial data, except for the attribute data, from the fixed time of the start of use at the earliest; and

remaining distribution data distribution means for, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, distributing the remaining distribution data from said source to the user who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

4. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source
 3 to a user, said data comprising only a part of distribution data for which the time of the start
 4 of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival
 5 of the time of start of use, including at least one of the time of start of use and the price of the
 6 distribution data, before the arrival of time of the start of use, to a storage region provided in
 7 each at said user-side;

8 partial data reproduction release means which, when the user indicates to said source
 9 a decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution
 10 means or the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders the partial data
 11 except for the attribute data reproducible from the time of the start of use at the earliest;

12 payment ability judgment means which, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon
 13 the receipt of a request by the source from the user side for the distribution of a part or the
 14 whole of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, judges
 15 whether or not the user, who has requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the
 16 undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution
 17 data;

18 requested data distribution means which, when the judgment by the payment ability
 19 judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data from
 20 said source to the corresponding user-side;

21 accounting means which, when the distribution of the requested data from the source
 22 to the user side by the requested data distribution means has been confirmed, performs
 23 accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

24 requested data reproduction release means which renders the remaining part of the
 25 data, which has been distributed from said source to said user by the requested data
 26 distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on
 27 the user side.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 1,
 2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
 3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
 4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according
 5 to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 1,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio
3 network.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2,
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when
3 the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and
5 subtracts an amount of money to be paid from the user's balance to determine a new balance
6 value.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 7,
2 which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at the time of completion of
3 accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the
4 sales code to establish the balance.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 7,
2 wherein a period of validity is provided in the sales code and which further comprises means,
3 for establishing the balance at a time of no charging, that, when the period of validity has
4 expired, returns the new balance value, obtained by subtracting an equivalent value from the
5 balance, to the original value based on recognition that the payment corresponding to an
6 issued sales code has not been made.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2,
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according
5 to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 3,
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according
5 to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4,
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according
5 to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio
3 network.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 3,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio
3 network.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4,
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio
3 network.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 4,
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when
3 the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and
5 subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance
6 value.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 16,
2 which further comprises means, for establishing a balance at the time of the completion of
3 accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the
4 sales code to establish the balance.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when
3 the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and

- 5 subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance
- 6 value.